

NO CURTAILMENT IN THE MAJORS

Big League Club Owners Decide on Future Plans at Chicago Meeting.

Chicago, Ill., Dec. 15.—There will be no curtailment of the playing season, no shortening of the player limit, no limitation of the training season in the major leagues next year. The club owners of the National and American leagues decided at their joint meeting here today that there was no cause for alarm in baseball at present. They agreed that if the war forces them to retrench it will be time enough to adopt a war policy when they actually face conditions next spring.

The two leagues decided to open the 1918 season on Tuesday, April 2, a week later than last year and to play a 154 game schedule, which has been the program for years. The National league agreed to the American league plan for the collection of the federal war tax. It was decided to collect only what the government imposes on three cents a share on the five cents on pavilion seats, eight cents on grand stand and ten cents on box seats. The leagues also decided to collect a 10 cent tax on every free admission.

Two baseball deals, one of which involved the famous sale of Alexander and Kliffier, the star Philadelphia pitcher, to the Chicago Nationals early in the week were made. The transactions involved \$75,000 in cash and nine players.

Another deal, the star pitcher of the Philadelphia Athletics and his team mates, Walter Schurz, a catcher, and outfielder, Amos Strunk, were sold to the Boston Americans for \$60,000 and pitcher Vena, Throckmold and pitcher Throckmold, outfielder Kopp and catcher Throckmold. While baseball men were still blinking in surprise at this trade, the St. Louis Americans sold outfielder Bert Shotton and shortstop Lavan to Washington for \$15,000 and pitcher Gullis. The sale of Lavan caused no surprise as he and second baseman Pratt of the St. Louis club have a \$100,000 suit pending against Phil Hall, president of the club, who is expected to have charged the players with "playing down." It is expected that a deal involving Pratt will be made.

DELMONT EASY FOR THE CHAMP

Leonard Had Little Difficulty With the Memphis Featherweight Boxer.

Does it help the boxing game to have title holders going about the country meeting men whom the champions outclass, not only in action but in weight and size? The average boxing fan likes to see champions in action, but not to such an extent that the men they are pitted against are entirely outclassed.

Of late Benny Leonard, the lightweight champion, has been meeting boys of the second class variety, and of course beating them easily, most times knocking them out. At St. Paul last week Leonard met Gene Delmont, a boy of about 125 pounds and who has always been considered a featherweight. It was only natural to expect Leonard to win without much bother, which he did in the eighth round, when the referee stopped the fight because Leonard was so much heavier than Delmont. Leonard had enough. The boy was not out, but the referee considered it safest to stop the fight. Leonard wanted to continue, because he was anxious to save the money his friends had bet that he would win the limit of ten rounds. It is just such actions at times that hurt the game.

The fans who were present blessed Leonard when he had Delmont beaten, according to the St. Paul papers, due to the fact that Leonard, as the papers claim, said to the manager of Delmont: "That is what you get for selling your boy and fresh with me." If Leonard made such a remark he is deserved to be censured, for it was surely unbecoming a fighter, let alone a champion, to make such a remark to a fallen foe.

When a champion meets another man in the ring he is expected to show his ability, but not to ridicule his opponent because the latter tried to do the best he could against the title holder. It would also be better for champions to give a handicap to opponents instead of making them a handicap. A boy of Leonard's skill and stamina should never ask to settle an overrated lightweight, he should be willing to give the other man a chance.

Gunboat Smith Is Out of Running

HUGHES DEFENDS PILOT.

Coming to the defense of Delmont for the way he handled his Oakland team in the Coast league race this past season, El Hughes, a San Francisco writer, says Cal Ewing and Delmont had it so good that this year would be a year of financial success in baseball, so they did not spend much money for players. They combined money, and turned out a team that played mighty interesting baseball for a while and surprised those who picked the "bummers" to finish the season with a record of 100 wins and 80 losses.

JENKINS GOES IN ARMY.

Her father, a minor league pitcher, has been called to the front. The father has been called to the front. The father has been called to the front.

OLD JUDGE RUMHAUSER



WAUGH AND KALE FIGHT IS REAL TREAT TO DEMING BOXING FANS

Lightweight champion Joe Waugh of the border patrol will have an excellent chance of showing his real worth on December 22 at Camp Cody, Deming, when he is slated to face one of the toughest propositions in the south, in the shape of Bobby Kale, the Texas titleholder, and who recently defeated Snipe Fitzpatrick.

Kale is a smelly, willing miler who is known to the boxing fans of this city, including those of the border patrol, and he will put any boxer into the pink of condition, and will send many into the discard as a result of growing stale. Bobby is an old timer that can be reckoned on to make his way around the ring, and his apprehension is felt by his supporters that he will be in any but the best of shape when the bell rings for the Kale battle.

McIntosh is busy.

In the meantime manager John McIntosh is not loitering any time and has arranged for training quarters for the soldier lightweight, Kale is always in fine condition and always that he can easily go the lightweight limit when he weighed in well under the beam for the Wilson bout.

Waugh will be in El Paso for a short time Thursday, coming down for the purpose of signing articles for the Kale match, and to transfer to Ft. Worth, where he is billed to clash with Harvey "Fighting" Throckmold of Kansas City Monday night in a 16-round quarter.

Throckmold is a regular fighter, as the southern has been meeting the best men of his class for several months, and can hit just as hard and is more clever than Bobby in the ring. Throckmold is the same youngster who fought Frankie Gaze in a 16-round quarter.

Brooklyn Owner After Sunday Ball

President Ebbets of the Brooklyn club, having done his part in lining up members of the New York state legislature for Sunday baseball, has been going after the prize and poster. A crowd of better was sent to nearly 100 of them in the metropolitan district, asking for an expenditure of up to \$100 on Sunday ball games. A number responded favorably, some, of course, could not pay anything, but they were given tickets and a contribution to their own club, while many answered not, saying that it was beneath their dignity to receive themselves as an honor which interests hundreds of thousands of persons.

DEVELOP BOXING CHAMPS AT CAMP

(Continued From Previous Page.)

and straighten out the boxing championships once and for all. The flyweight title is in dispute, and it could be an easy matter to settle it with such little stars as Frankie Mason, Young Zulu Kid, Johnny Rosner and Frankie Brown to select from.

Then, too, the bantamweight title is not clear. I have always contended that the real champion is Johnny Ertle and not Pete Herman. At the time Ertle and Kid Williams fought at St. Paul I was asked by Bob Eitzen and other writers for my opinion as to what decision was proper, and immediately notified them that under the ruling Ertle was entitled to the championship, as Williams had been set down for alleged fouling of Ertle, which meant that he lost the decision through disqualification, and Ertle naturally retained the title.

Title Matter is Cleared.

It has never been cleared up, and for that matter, Ertle is in honor bound to fight Ertle over the championship course and settle the question of titleholder between them. If those boys cannot meet at New Orleans and fight it out for the championship, why I will offer them a reasonable purse to fight Ertle and settle the dispute for all time.

The middleweight middle is just as bad, although the champion has dwindled down to really three men—Mike O'Dowd, Harry Greb and Mike Gibbons. At St. Paul I was asked to give my opinion as to what was right to the title, but some people made the claim for him and it stuck. I have looked upon a Jake as a champion. I always considered Mike Gibbons the best man, but since O'Dowd beat Mike and Harry Greb has advanced near the top, why there is a different aspect to the affair.

Greb, by the way, went about in the right way when he posted \$1000 some months ago and claimed the title, offering to defend it against all comers. That is more than the rest did, and Greb is entitled to credit for the same. He has the rail for a match with O'Dowd, and let the winner be recognized as the real middleweight champion. I am also going to offer title matches for Johnny Kilb, Benny Leonard, Ted Lewis and Jess Willard.

There is no reason why Willard should have refused all this time to defend his title, and he is surely due now to enter into a match with Fred Fulton, who appears to be the only logical candidate for such a match. For the heavyweight title I intend to offer a bigger purse, of course.

CHRISTY MATHEWSON WILL COME BACK NEXT SEASON AS TWIRLER

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—"Big Six" is going to try a comeback.

He believes there are a few more good games of ball left in the old salary snapper and he is planning to start out the coming season taking his regular turn in the box for the Reds.

This is the year that comes brooding out of Cincy, and with it the information that Christy Mathewson, veteran though he is, cherishes hopes of helping to pitch the Redville gang to a pennant next summer.

Mathewson's club was weak in several spots, but it was without a doubt one of the greatest hitting clubs the National league has seen in several moons, and Matty had good fielding and base running as well.

Toney Is Good One.

What might have happened had the Reds possessed another Toney can only be guessed at. But it is a club that batting were the predominant element in baseball the Reds would have copied, and the figures recently issued prove it beyond all argument.

The collapse of Mathewson's pitching staff in midseason, therefore, is looked upon by a good many critics as the turning point in the race which paved the way for clean sailing on the part of the Giants.

The sensational climb of the Reds, starting the first of July, had the old National league a-rop, with excitement and had Matty's batlers gain a month to continue their terrific gain a month.

They are calling attention to the Reds and Cardinals and some have gone so far as to say that if Mathewson had been able to sport a stronger pitching staff last season the pennant might have gone to Redville.

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BY "TAD" OFFICIALS MAY CHANGE RULES

Eastern Golfers May Vote for Reconstitution of the Stymie on Course.

New York, Dec. 15.—When the Eastern Golf association last season voted to do as it pleased about the holding of a championship tournament interpretation of an amateur, abolition of the stymie, and so on, it came in for more or less adverse criticism in the east. It now looks as though the N. G. A. might "back up" a trifle, in at least one phase of its radicalism, there being a growing sentiment among the directors that the amateur championship should have a minimum age limit of 40 years.

This, of course, would be in a nature of a war time concession, as it has been pointed out that tournaments under present conditions are unfair to the younger members of the association. It has also been made to divide the field into classes according to age, say 40 to 50, 50 to 60, 60 and upward. This is a way calls to mind the annual seniors' gathering at Apawamis.

One other contemplated change is to limit the western junior championship to junior members of the Western Golf association clubs, or to some of members of these clubs. This suggested move is the outcome of going on of a "high linked" tour during the last Junior meeting at Lamport.

longer the world's series might have been a strictly western affair.

The Reds needed a sterling outwaller and another good right handed pitcher in midseason, but Matty was unable to corral the necessary talent. For this reason he is going to try a comeback.

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GOLFERS DRAW FOR THE FINALS

Country Club Tourney Entrants Have Completed Qualifying Round.

Having completed the qualifying round of the annual handicap golf tourney of the El Paso Country club for the gold president's cup donated by W. F. Payne, entrants in the tourney are awaiting the announcement of the drawing for match play which will be made Monday at the club. There will probably be two flights of 25 each.

Don Little of the Lake Geneva Country club of Chicago will supervise the match play. Mr. Little returned to El Paso this afternoon from a business trip and will remain here until the completion of the tournament.

The directors of the Country club have authorized the sports and grounds committee to install sand traps on the new 9-hole course and have it ready for play as soon as possible after the February irrigation. The annual tournament of the club is played on the old nine hole course, and the qualifying round was not staged on the new course as previously stated.

BAN OBJECTS TO LONG SCHEDULE

One of the strong objections raised by president Ben Johnson to the suggestion that a schedule of 154 games be compressed into five or five and one half months is that it would make necessary numerous double headers to take care of postponements.

"Playing two games for one admission changes the sport," said Johnson, "and creates in the minds of the fans the belief that they are not getting their money's worth out of a single game of nine innings. Double headers have done more to injure professional baseball than any other one thing."

"Some of the minor leagues have played the double header card to the limit and owe much of their financial trouble to that fact."

The National and American leagues have in the past rather sharply divided in policy on the double header proposition. Many times last season games were postponed for slight excuse in the National for the apparent purpose of making double headers on Saturdays and other days when it was figured crowds could be drawn.

There was also some of this in the American league, but the practice did not go to the extent that it did in the National.

AMERICAN LEAGUES IN.

According to a truthful Chicago scribe 55 American league players, eligible to play in the National, have signified themselves, in response to inquiries, as not going to wait for the draft. They will enlist at once in some branch of service. All right, then the government uses 55 more yeomen?

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